

Approved For Release 2000/04/14 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000400020033-3
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3 WRITERS CALLED BACKERS OF CASTRO

WASHINGTON, July 19

(UPI)—A refugee Cuban political writer accused three American reporters today of writing distorted stories on Cuba in favor of the Castro regime.

In testimony at a Senate hearing, Carlos Todd, now president and editor of the Cuban Information Service, Coral Gables, Fla., named the reporters as retired Brig. Gen. Hugh B. Hester of Chapel Hill, N. C., Charles Kuralt and John Hlavacek.

Mr. Todd said Mr. Hester went to Havana as a special correspondent for the North American Newspaper Alliance. Mr. Kuralt was admitted as a Columbia Broadcasting System television correspondent. Mr. Hlavacek went to Havana for the National Broadcasting Company.

"Hester's press reports and Kuralt and Hlavacek's television appearances have all been favorable to the Castro Communist regime in one way or another," Mr. Todd said.

Mr. Todd testified before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, which is investigating "attempts by the pro-Castro forces to pervert the American press."

Mr. Todd was a columnist and political writer for The Times of Havana until he fled Cuba in October, 1960.

A spokesman for the North American Newspaper Alliance said here yesterday that Mr. Hester and another writer, Jesse Gordon, had written three stories which were straight interviews with top officials of the Cuban Government about six or eight months ago. The spokesman said that since then Mr. Hester has "had no connection with NANA."

Richard S. Salant, president of C.B.S. News, said C.B.S. has complete confidence in the abilities and objectivity of Charles Kuralt.

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ACCUSES U. S. REPORTERS Carlos Todd, a refugee Cuban political writer, now president of the Cuban Information Service, Coral Gables, Fla., told Senate Internal Security Sub-committee members that three American newsmen, Ret. Brig. Gen. Hugh B. Hester, Chapel Hill, N. C., Charles Kuralt and John Javaceck, brought back distorted stories on Cuba and the Castro regime. All have been favorable to the Castro regime in one way or another, he said.

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